

I fear if this ruling is to happen, we will go back to the "dark ages" of telecom. Since I started my ISP back in 1994, the first 4 years were marred by Verizon doing pretty much everything in their power not to service me. We would have PRI's installed that were provisioned incorrectly, it would take months to get T1's installed - but when a customer ordered one directly from Verizon it would get done in weeks. In the past few years however it became markedly better - and the only reason was that they wanted to get approved for long distance in NJ, so they actually started giving me service. And since they have been approved service has continued to be fairly good. So, it just goes to show that unless they are "forced" or receive some "benefit" everything remains status quo.

Also Verizon made it impossible for me to sell DSL. I spent many thousands of dollars in equipment in 1999 to be a Verizon DSL provider. My cost was \$41 per line. Right before I was going to kick it off they came out and started selling it for \$39.95 directly to consumers. Needless to say I had to cancel the entire project and take a \$20,000 loss.

If these current rules are overturned it will create undo hardships and might quite possibly put us out of business.